In the claims:

Please cancel claims 9, 18, and 19, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 23 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from *E. coli* K1 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, and *tatE*, or a homologue or functional fragment of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 24 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the homologue has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 25 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the homologue has at least 80% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 26 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the homologue has at least 90% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 27 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the operon comprises the *tatB* gene.

Claim 28 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, and SEQ ID NO:15, or a homologue or functional fragment of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 29 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, and SEQ ID NO:15.

Claim 30 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 31 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 32 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 80% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 33 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 90% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 34 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 35 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from *E. coli* K1 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, and *tatE*, or a homologue of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

no functional drug

Claim 36 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from *E. coli* K1 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, and *tatE*, or a functional fragment of any of the foregoing.

no homologs

Claim 37 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, and wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 38 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue thereof, and wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

Claim 39 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a functional fragment thereof.

Claim 40 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.